

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

June 12, 1981

USSR-POLAND: Reaction to Central Committee Meeting

The Soviets yesterday showed their displeasure over the outcome of the Polish party plenum by broadcasting in the USSR their letter to the Polish Central Committee. [REDACTED]

The publication of the harshly worded letter suggests that the Soviet leaders will make greater efforts to inform the populace of the USSR about the nature of their dispute with the Poles and thus better prepare the Soviet people for whatever further action they decide to take. [REDACTED]

If the Soviet Politburo held its usual Thursday meeting yesterday, the Kremlin's next move may come soon. The defeat of Moscow's attempt to force the Polish party to reverse the trend of liberalization and the rapid approach of the party congress compel the Soviets to act quickly. [REDACTED]

Polish Reactions

There was little reaction in Poland yesterday to the strong and dramatic two-day Central Committee session. Party members and the populace in general presumably are staggered by the realization that there nearly was a complete split in the top leadership and the party could have disintegrated. [REDACTED]

In his closing speech to the plenum, party leader Kania repeated many of the same themes he included in his opening speech: "socialist renewal" will continue; the party will continue to use political means to deal with problems; it will combat extremists and "antisocialists" and tighten controls on the mass media; and the Soviets had a right to criticize the party, but Poland will remain a loyal ally. [REDACTED]

Kania barely referred to the attempts by hardliners to unseat him. He made a special plea that provincial election delegates to the party congress not automatically exclude present members of the leadership. It is likely, however, that many in the present leadership--particularly the hardliners--will not retain their positions after the congress. [REDACTED]

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The resolution of the Central Committee plenum, broadcast yesterday, also emphasized that the party will continue "socialist renewal" and use political means to resolve social conflicts. In describing how the party should react to "antisocialists," the resolution stated that "all indispensable means" should be used. [REDACTED]

Romanian Nervousness

A Romanian diplomat told [REDACTED] that the Soviets had "lost confidence" in Poland's leaders and would intervene before the congress unless leadership changes were made and internal party reform halted. He also said he was "eighty percent sure" that the Romanians would not participate in such an intervention. [REDACTED]

Another Romanian diplomat said it would be "realistic to expect" a Warsaw Pact intervention in Poland "in the coming weeks." He noted that the Czechoslovaks, Bulgarians, and East Germans would, along with the reluctant Hungarians, join Moscow in an intervention. The Romanians would not, in his view, be included in such an action. [REDACTED]

Foreign Ministry officials in Bucharest, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] disclaimed any knowledge of Soviet intent to move against Poland and denied any change in Romania's position opposing all interference in Poland. [REDACTED]